



## **PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ATHENS LIVESTOCK PROPERTY CONDEMNED, UNSAFE FOR LIVESTOCK**

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) is currently working with the County of Los Angeles' Nuisance Abatement Team and the Department of Public Works' Building and Safety division to ensure the Athens property, located on 131<sup>st</sup> Street in Los Angeles, is safe for the livestock animals it houses.

The property has been an ongoing source of violations for unsafe conditions of various County ordinances and state laws. DACC has rescued animals from abusive and neglectful situations from this location in the past, resulting in the filing of criminal charges. In addition, the property has several Building and Safety violations, due to illegal wiring and unsanitary and unsafe conditions.

On Monday, June 18, a fire broke out and killed two horses, a pony and a goat. Subsequently, Building and Safety issued a restrictive order to the owners, only allowing them to enter to feed and care for the horses. This was not the first fire at the property that killed animals.

Yesterday, June 27, the Nuisance Abatement Team conducted another inspection and this time Building and Safety condemned the property because it is too unsafe for people or animals. In response to the unsafe conditions, DACC has given the owners 24 hours to remove their horses.

"It's unfair to the animals to even consider housing them in such conditions. It is our department's responsibility to ensure the safety of the animals and the only way to ensure their safety at this point is having them removed from the property. We cannot allow animals to remain on condemned property", said Department director, Marcia Mayeda.

DACC officers as well as representatives from other involved County departments will be returning to the stables today to evaluate this rapidly changing situation.

DACC strongly encourages livestock owners (and pet owners in general) to have an emergency evacuation plan in place. In the event of an emergency (earthquake, fire, or other natural disaster), owners need have a horse trailer available to move the animals, and a secondary housing location in place for their livestock.

For more information about how to prepare your pets for an emergency, visit our website, <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>.

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